

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Cancel claims 1-11.

Add the following new claims:

12. (new) A run-flat device for fitting on the outer circumferences of a wheel inside an inflatable tyre, said device comprising an annular ring made up of a plurality of arcuate segments having a flange at each end that overlaps circumferentially the corresponding flanges of adjacent segments, which flanges are interconnected by clamping means equally spaced around the ring that imparts to each segment a circumferential clamping force and an axial clamping force to urge the segments circumferentially and axially towards each other wherein the clamping means comprises a first and second clamping bolts which pass through a pair of spaced holes formed in the adjacent flanges, said device additional comprising a retaining plate having two captive nuts mounted thereon, for securing the first and second clamping bolts and to prevent lateral twisting of the flanges.

13. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 12 wherein the clamping means further comprises a slot provided in one of the flanges at one end of each segment that includes an inclined surface that faces away from the immediately adjacent segment, a wedge provided in the slot, said wedge having an inclined surface that contacts the inclined surface of the slot, and having a hole that aligns with a first hole of the pair of spaced holes in the flanges, and a first clamping bolt that passes through the first hole of the pairs of holes and the hole in the wedge whereby tightening of the first bolt causes the wedge to urge the segments towards each other circumferentially, and the clamping means further includes a second bolt substantially parallel to the first bolt, said second bolt passing through the second hole of the pair of holes in the flanges and through a clamping plate in contact with a side face of the segment whereby tightening of

the second bolt clamps the flanges of the segments together axially, and the combined clamping effect of the two bolts restricts pivotal movement of the segments relative to each other.

14. (new) A run-flat device as claimed in claim 13 wherein the captive nuts are located within the first and second holes.

15. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 12 wherein there is provided a split inner sleeve for fitment to the rim of the wheel and onto the outer circumference of which the segments sit.

16. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 13 wherein there is provided a split inner sleeve for fitment to the rim of the wheel and onto the outer circumference of which the segments sit.

17. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 14 wherein there is provided a split inner sleeve for fitment to the rim of the wheel and onto the outer circumference of which the segments sit.

18. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 15 wherein the inner circumference of the inner sleeve is profiled to match the profile of the outer circumference of the wheel.

19. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 16 wherein the inner circumference of the inner sleeve is profiled to match the profile of the outer circumference of the wheel.

20. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 17 wherein the inner circumference of the inner sleeve is profiled to match the profile of the outer circumference of the wheel.

21. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 15 wherein the outer circumference of the inner sleeve has a recess, and each segment has a flange on its inner circumferential surface that

engages in the recess on the inner sleeve.

22. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 16 wherein the outer circumference of the inner sleeve has a recess, and each segment has a flange on its inner circumferential surface that engages in the recess on the inner sleeve.

23. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 17 wherein the outer circumference of the inner sleeve has a recess, and each segment has a flange on its inner circumferential surface that engages in the recess on the inner sleeve.

24. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 13 wherein the inner sleeve comprises a central band and two side bands made of a material that is more resilient than the material of the central band.

25. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 14 wherein the inner sleeve comprises a central band and two side bands made of a material that is more resilient than the material of the central band.

26. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 15 wherein the inner sleeve comprises a central band and two side bands made of a material that is more resilient than the material of the central band.

27. (new) A run-flat device according to claims 24 wherein the central band is made of nylon.

28. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 24 wherein the side bands are made of polyurethane.

29. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 26 wherein the side bands are made of polyurethane.

30. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 12 wherein the segments are identical in shape.

31. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 13 wherein the segments are identical in shape.

32. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 14 wherein the segments are identical in shape.

33. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 13 wherein a shear pin is provided between the inner sleeve and each of the segments to resist circumferential movement of the sleeves relative to the inner sleeve during normal running of the wheel.

34. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 14 wherein a shear pin is provided between the inner sleeve and each of the segments to resist circumferential movement of the sleeves relative to the inner sleeve during normal running of the wheel.

35. (new) A run-flat device according to claim 15 wherein a shear pin is provided between the inner sleeve and each of the segments to resist circumferential movement of the sleeves relative to the inner sleeve during normal running of the wheel.